

CLAIMS

1. A synthetic composition comprising (a) one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of flavanols and hydroxystilbenes; and (b) one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of flavanones, flavones, flavonols, proanthocyanidins and anthocyanidins with the proviso that a combination of (i) catechin and quercetin and (ii) EGCg, pine extract and grape extract is specifically excluded;

5 wherein the molar ratio of total group (a) compound(s) to total group (b) compound(s) in said composition is at least 2.5:1.

10 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein (a) comprises one or more flavanols and (b) comprises one or more flavonols.

15 3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein (a) comprises EGCg and (b) comprises quercetin.

20 4. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein (b) comprises a mixture of proanthocyanidins and anthocyanidins provided as a plant extract.

5. A composition according to claim 4 wherein the plant extract is an extract of French maritime pine bark.

25 6. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the molar ratio of total group (a) compound(s) to total group (b) compound(s) is less than 50:1.

7. A medicament or nutritional supplement comprising a composition according to any one of the preceding claims together with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

30 8. A medicament or nutritional supplement according to claim 7, comprising from 0.002% to 10% by weight of total group (a) compound(s) plus total group (b) compound(s).

9. A food product comprising a composition according to any of claims 1 to 6.

10. A food product according to claim 9, comprising from 0.002% to 10% by
5 weight of total group (a) compound(s) plus total group (b) compound(s).

11. A beverage comprising a composition according to any of claims 1 to 6.

12. A beverage according to claim 11, comprising from 0.002% to 10% by
10 weight of total group (a) compound(s) plus total group (b) compound(s).

13. A method of reducing neuronal degeneration in an individual which
method comprises administering to the individual, a composition which comprises
(a) one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of flavanols and
15 hydroxystilbenes; and (b) one or more compounds selected from the group
consisting of flavanones, flavones, flavonols, proanthocyanidins and
anthocyanidins.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the neuronal degeneration is in
20 the hippocampus of the individual.

15. Use of a composition which comprises (a) one or more compounds
selected from the group consisting of flavanols and hydroxystilbenes; and (b) one
or more compounds selected from the group consisting of flavanones, flavones,
25 flavonols, proanthocyanidins and anthocyanidins,

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in reducing neuronal
degeneration in an individual.

16. A method of delaying, reducing or preventing an age-related decline in
30 cognitive function in a mammal which method comprises administering to the
mammal a composition which comprises (a) one or more compounds selected
from the group consisting of flavanols and hydroxystilbenes; and (b) one or more

compounds selected from the group consisting of flavanones, flavones, flavonols, proanthocyanidins and anthocyanidins.

17. Use of a composition which comprises (a) one or more compounds
5 selected from the group consisting of flavanols and hydroxystilbenes; and (b) one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of flavanones, flavones, flavonols, proanthocyanidins and anthocyanidins,

in the manufacture of a product for use in delaying, reducing or preventing an age related-decline in cognitive function in a mammal.